

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR EARLE'S STATEMENT OF JUNE 21, 1978
- (SALT TWO-1790)

1. BEGIN TEXT

MR. MINISTER:

- I

TODAY I WILL ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF THE EXEMPTION OF
CERTAIN EXISTING HEAVY BOMBERS FROM INCLUSION IN THE OVER-
ALL AGGREGATE AS PROPOSED IN THE SOVIET FOURTH AGREED
STATEMENT TO PARAGRAPH 3 OF ARTICLE II OF THE TREATY.

- II

THE SIDES ARE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO
CERTAIN PORTIONS OF PARAGRAPH 3 OF ARTICLE II. THERE IS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 GENEVA 09448 211637Z

A COINCIDENCE OF VIEWS WITH RESPECT TO THE GENERAL FORMAT
FOR PARAGRAPH 3 OF ARTICLE II. IN ADDITION, THERE IS A
COMMON APPROACH TO COUNTING ALL CURRENT AND FUTURE HEAVY
BOMBER TYPE AIRPLANES AS HEAVY BOMBERS. THE SIDES ALSO
AGREE THAT ARMS SUBJECT TO AGGREGATE LIMITATIONS REMAIN
SUBJECT TO SUCH LIMITATIONS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THEY ARE
EITHER DISMANTLED, DESTROYED, OR OTHERWISE CEASE TO BE

SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS, PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE VI AND PROCEDURES TO BE AGREED IN THE STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION.

THERE ALSO APPEARS TO BE A COINCIDENCE OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE SIDES WITH RESPECT TO THE DEFINITION OF FUNCTIONALLY-RELATED OBSERVABLE DIFFERENCES WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH THAT CERTAIN AIRPLANES WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO THE AGGREGATE LIMITATIONS PROVIDED FOR IN THE TREATY. THE SIDES NEED ONLY TO INCORPORATE AGREED LANGUAGE WHICH WILL MAKE CLEAR THE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING WHICH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED.

- III

HOWEVER, DIFFERENCES REMAIN, INCLUDING THE TREATMENT OF THE MYASISHCHEV (BISON) TYPE AIRPLANES. THE SOVIET SIDE HAS STATED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS ITS WILLINGNESS TO GIVE THE AIRPLANES OF THAT TYPE WHICH ARE PRESENTLY USED AS TANKERS "ADDITIONAL" FEATURES INDICATING THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO USE THEM AS HEAVY BOMBERS. AS RECENTLY AS THE JUNE 1 PLENARY, THE SOVIET SIDE STATED, "IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS INTENDED TO GIVE ALL MYASISHCHEV TYPE TANKER AIRPLANES ADDITIONAL, I EMPHASIZE, ADDITIONAL FEATURES WHICH INDICATE THAT THEY CANNOT BE USED AS HEAVY BOMBERS." OF COURSE, IF SUCH FEATURES WERE ADDED, THE AIRPLANES IN QUESTION WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 GENEVA 09448 211637Z

TO THE AGGREGATE LIMITATIONS PROVIDED FOR IN THE TREATY.

NEVERTHELESS, I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS UNABLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE MYASSHSCHEV AIRPLANES WHICH ARE USED AS HEAVY BOMBERS AND THOSE WHICH ARE USED AS TANKERS. FURTHERMORE, BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE UNITED STATES, ALL OF THESE AIRPLANES CAN CARRY OUT THE MISSION OF A HEAVY BOMBER. THEREFORE, THE TYPE RULE FOR HEAVY BOMBERS SHOULD APPLY AND ALL MYASISHCHEV TYPE AIRPLANES SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE APPROPRIATE AGGREGATE LIMITATIONS.

UNDER THE PROPOSALS OF BOTH SIDES, AIRPLANES SUBJECT TO AGGREGATE LIMITATIONS WILL CEASE TO BE SUBJECT TO SUCH LIMITATIONS IF AND WHEN FUNCTIONALLY-RELATED OBSERVABLE DIFFERENCES ARE PROVIDED WHICH INDICATE THAT THEY CANNOT CARRY OUT THE MISSION OF A HEAVY BOMBER. THE UNITED STATES REAFFIRMS ITS POSITION THAT ALL MYASISHCHEV TYPE AIRPLANES COUNT AS HEAVY BOMBERS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY UNTIL THEY ARE GIVEN FUNCTIONALLY-RELATED OBSERVABLE DIFFERENCES WHICH INDICATE THAT THEY CANNOT BE USED AS HEAVY BOMBERS, OR UNTIL THEY ARE DISMANTLED,

DESTROYED, OR OTHERWISE CEASE TO BE SUBJECT TO THE
APPROPRIATE AGGREGATE LIMITATIONS. END TEXT. EARLE

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